News-report regarding death of elephants in Kazhiranga and Manas reserves

37. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in "The Statement", dated 30 December, 1996 that a large number of elephants in the Kazhiranga and Manas reserves of Assam have starved to death during the past six months due to non-payment of bills for elephant-feed to its suppliers;

(b) the total number of elephants died of starvation and otherwise in Assam and in other States during this period and in the preceding two spells of six months each; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve and promote this majestic animal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The Government has seen the newspaper report in the Statement of December 30, 1996. The State Government has reported that there is no death of departmental elephants by starvation during 1995-96.

(b) The information on captive elephants in India is not compiled or collated in this Ministry as a large number of elephants are owned by private individuals and organisations. The number of wild elephants reported to have died due to natural causes and poaching is annexed. (See below).

(c) To preserve the majestic animal, the elephant have been placed under the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. In order to discourage paching of tuskers a ban has been placed on the trade in ivory. For international control, the elephant has been included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), which prohibits international trade among the signatory countries in ivory. In order to strengthen the protection of elephant populations and their natural habitats in India, the Government of India has launched Project Elephant to provide assistance to the elephant range states.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		N	P	N	P	N	P
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh SH	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	2	Nil
3.	Assam	20	4	24	3	14	6
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
5.	Karnataka	3	12	4	18	-	10
6.	Kerala	6	6	33	3	34	3
7.	Meghalaya	Nil	1	7	1	9	10
8.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	8
9.	Orissa	-	12	-	13	6	10
10.	Tamil Nadu	-	2	-	4	-	7
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	19
12.	West Bengal	12	2	13	3	6	3
	Total	41	40	85	46	77	77

Hearing deficiency due to noise pollution

38. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that growing noise pollution both in rural and urban areas in the country is an important cause of increasing hearing deficiency;

(b) whether it is a fact that avoidable hearing loss in rural areas is 11% and in cities it is 6%; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Excessive noise levels may cause temporary or permanent hearing loss depending upon the intensity and duration of

noise level. An acoustic trauma may occur due to impulses produced by explosion or sudden excessive noise of about 150 dBA. High frequency of ultrasonic noise above the normal audible range can affect the semi-circular channel of the inner ear and cause nausea and dizxiness.

(c) The remedial measures taken for controlling noise pollution include the following:—

1. Ambient noise standards have been notified.
2. Ban on use of pressure horns in the various cities.
3. Standards have been notified in respect of vehicles at manufacturing stage.
4. Codes of practice have been evolved for controlling noise from public address systems, aircraft operations, railway operations, construction and bursting of crackers.

"Persons affected by environmental pollution related diseases"

39. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study about the number of persons who are reported to be affected by the environmental pollution related diseases in the major metropolitan cities in the country and the number of deaths occurring annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the cities having the highest air pollution;

(c) the annual percentage of rise in the air pollution in the major metropolitan cities;

(d) the results achieved by various measures taken to contain the growing environmental pollution; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to revamp the environmental pollution control programme to make it more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) Owing to increase in levels of pollution in the ambient air due to large scale increase in vehicles and industrial complexes leading to atmospheric pollution, there could be an increase in health related problems. Water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, hepatitis and other gastro-intestinal problems can occur due to water pollution. However, no conclusive statistical data is available on morbidity and mortality rates. The ambient air quality data monitored in ten metropolitan cities indicates that the levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) encountered in Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay exceeded the prescribed limit but the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen were below their threshold limits.

(d) and (e) The details of measures taken by the Government to control pollution, including the achievements, are as follows:—

i. Emission and effluent standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries.

ii. Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment within a stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

iii. Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

iv. Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

v. Customs and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment.

vi. A scheme for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small-scale industrial units is under implementation. About 61 CETPs in various States have been approved by the Government.

vii. Public awareness campaigns on the effects of pollution have been launched.

viii. A network of about 290 ambient air quality monitoring stations in 90 cities and towns in the country and 480